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The first condition necessary to accomplish this is an increase in the workers' responsibility for the care of equipment -- an integral part of advanced production technique. The movement for socialist maintenance of equipment by the workers is being widely propagated throughout the country.

What are the economic results of lengthening the period of service of equipment?

First, expenditures for repair are reduced. It has been estimated that in lengthening the repair cycle to 8 or 12 years, the cost of repairing one machine tool (excluding servicing and checkups) is reduced an average of 425 or 850 rubles per year, respectively. Experience of production leaders and scientific research data show that it is entirely possible to lengthen the repair cycle of machine tools to 12 or more years. Lengthening of the interrepair period and the repair cycle is achieved, first of all, by improvement in the case of equipment and by timely preventive maintenance. Experience has also shown that the conversion of machine tools to high-speed methods does not prevent the extension of their period of service. It only requires still greater care of the machine tool.

Secondly, idle time of equipment is reduced. In lengthening the repair cycle to 8 and 12 years, the total idle time for each 1,000 machine tools is decreased by 1,400 and 2,800 machine-tool days per year, respectively. This is equivalent to putting from five to ten additional machine tools in operation, resulting in additional output of industrial production. The more additional production from the same park of machine tools and the same production area, the more the cost of that production is reduced. For each item produced, there is less expenditure for light, heat, building repair, salaries for administrative and technical personnel, etc.

In the third place, the number of repair workers and the number of machine tools engaged in repair of equipment are reduced. At present, an average of 73 workers and 25 machine tools are needed for the repair of every 1,000 machine tools. If the repair cycle is lengthened from 6 to 12 years, the repair staff and the number of machine tools used for repairs are cut in half.

In the fourth place, an important saving in materials, instruments, tools, electric power, etc., is effected. The minimum annual saving, in repair materials alone, due to reduction in the number of repairs, averages 100 rubles per machine tool. Approximately 100 kilowatt-hours of electric power are saved annually per machine tool.

The reduction in the idle time of equipment also means a reduction in the idleness of workers. Because of this, the labor productivity of machine-tool operators is increasing.

Lengthening the period of service of equipment between repair jobs should, in all cases, be accompanied by an improvement in its condition in a qualitative sense. This is an index of the proper maintenance of machines and mechanisms, an index of the increase in the skill of the workers and their mastery of techniques.

In many cases, good maintenance of equipment makes it possible to do less labor-consuming repair work in the time allotted than called for by the plan.

The transfer of equipment to a worker for socialist maintenance is a great and responsible job. He should by no means be reduced simply to drawing up and signing a document of transfer. This valuable innovation has not been disseminated, nor has it achieved the results it should at the Vladimir Tractor Plant, at the Moshtamp Plant, and several other enterprises, where it was confined to this type of formality.

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Before the transfer of equipment to socialist maintenance is put in effect, it is first necessary to assist the worker in studying it, in mastering the advanced methods of operation and care of equipment, and in examining the actual expenditures for repair, as well as the possible savings from lengthening the interrepair period. The vital task of the plant and shop trade union committees is to check up on the way in which the pledges made in accepting a machine tool for socialist maintenance are being carried out and to bring the results of this checkup to the attention of all the workers.

Experience has shown that the best results are obtained where repairmen, as well as machine-tool operators, are enlisted in the drive to lengthen the period of service of equipment. Repair workers, by observing socialist maintenance of the equipment which they are servicing, improve the quality of repairs and effect greater durability and longer life of parts, units, and machines as a whole. They transmit their knowledge to the machine-tool operators and machinists. This increases the skills of production workers. It also results in better care of equipment and, consequently, in lengthening the period of service without repair or reducing the volume of repairs.

The Stakhanovite methods used in lengthening the period of service of equipment are many and varied. One group of workers discovers the best methods of lubrication; another builds shields or baffle plates which protect the friction surface from falling chips or dust; and a third succeeds in completely eliminating vibration, etc. Unquestionably, the greatest benefit is achieved by the complex utilization of leading methods. The Sverdlovsk machine builders are good examples in this respect. They study and sum up the best methods of servicing machines and machine tools and introduce all these methods into production.

Production meetings, technical conferences, Stakhanovite Tuesdays, etc., should be more widely utilized to disseminate the advanced experience gained in lengthening the interrepair period. The plant press, whose duty it is to disseminate all that is new and advanced, plays a great role in this work.

At a number of enterprises, group inspection of the condition of equipment is practiced. The entire plant, factory, or mine personnel, participating in these inspections, is involved in the drive to lengthen the period of service of equipment. This drive makes possible the utilization of great reserves for further improvement of the quantitative and qualitative indexes of the work of enterprises.

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